

The Renter Education Program

is brought to the Mid Columbia area through a partnership of social service agencies and organizations.

This program is designed to help strengthen the ability of families and individuals to overcome poor rental histories and offer them a second chance.

PROGRAM: The **Renter Education Program** has been developed to assist individuals and families who, because of poor rental histories or poor credit, cannot access housing. Active participation in this program allows participants to develop necessary skills to be good tenants, successfully find housing...and keep it.

Once participants complete all the requirements of the course, they will be awarded a **Tenant Readiness Letter**. This letter is recognized by housing providers as a compensating factor to negative rental history. Within the letter is an introduction of the letter holder and an explanation of how the Renter Education Program guarantees their graduates by offering to compensate the landlord in the event of poor rental behavior.

CURRICULUM: Six sessions are designed to teach participants the skills necessary to be good tenants. Participants will be involved with learning exercises and homework assignments. Participants must attend all classes and complete all assignments in order to be certified. The three-hour evening course is held once a week, for six consecutive weeks. A light meal will be provided. Number of participants will be limited.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS: To receive a Tenant Readiness Letter, participants must:

- Attend all sessions
- Fully participate in all activities
- Satisfactorily complete all assignments
- Demonstrate a willingness to change old behavior patterns

**To register or for more information
please contact:
Mid Columbia Community Action
312 E. 4th Street
(541) 298-5131**

What Is the Renter Education Program?

A program designed to help strengthen the ability of families and individuals to overcome poor rental histories.

How do I sign up for the Renter Education Program?

Simply by contacting any of the listed partners or by contacting Mid Columbia Community Action, (541) 298-5131.

What is the goal of the Renter Education Program?

Working through negative rental history in order to gain stable housing.

- Poor rental history
- Problems managing money
- No steady income
- No credit history
- Poor credit history
- Criminal record
- Problems with former landlords

Is there a cost involved for the Renter Education Program? Yes, there is a small cost per household, however scholarships are available

Session 1: Getting Started, Action Planning & Problem Solving A comfortable time of getting acquainted with each other and with the expectations of the **Renter Education** program. *Seeing yourself as a landlord sees you.*

Session 2: Forms, Notices & Responsibilities of Landlords & Tenants. Participants will be given an overview of the Landlord-Tenant Law in Oregon handbook and a common sense approach to what being a good tenant means.

Session 3: "Master your Future" How to plan for a secure financial future.

- How to read (and understand) your credit report.
- Determine your housing budget.
- Choose goals and set spending priorities.

Session 4: Home, Sweet Home or all you ever wanted to know about moving:

- Who to contact, reading the want ads, making the calls -- then the application process.
- Planning ahead for your move. Know the expense of moving. What notices should be used.

Session 5: Settling In; The Maintenance and Care of Your Home Standards of cleanliness. Abiding by the rules. The renter's (and landlord's) role in home maintenance. Being a good neighbor.

Session 6: Review & Evaluation of Tenant Readiness. Upon successfully completing all sessions and demonstrating a high level of understanding appropriate tenant behavior, participants are ready to receive their **Tenant Readiness Letter**.

Partners:

Adult & Family Services
Columbia Gorge Community College
Community Corrections
Community Partnership Team
Guardian Property Management
Hood River Salvation Army
HOPE (HOusing for PEople)
Legal Aid Services of Oregon
Mid Columbia Center for Living
Mid Columbia Housing Agency
Oregon Housing & Community Services
Senior & Disabled Services
Services to Children & Families
St. Vincent de Paul
Vocational Rehabilitation

Renter Education is a community based program supported and in cooperation with the **Renter Education Coalition**. This program is coordinated by Mid Columbia Community Action.